



The New Year for Trees

Lesson Plan for Grade 1

Suggestions for basic activities for Tu Bishvat, for initial acquaintance with the holiday and its customs, which includes instilling basic concepts related to the plant world in general and to trees in particular. The activities are designed to introduce trees in the physical sense – the parts of the tree, types of trees, uses of trees, with poems and stories about trees included.

- Identification card of the holiday – its names, the date and customs.
- Parts of the trees and types of trees.
- Songs and stories about trees.

Lesson 1 – Introduction to Trees

1. The tree's structure – Explanation of its parts and their roles

The Tree

I am the tree – look at me,
Let us count all of my parts,
This is the trunk, brown and thick with branches above.
Yes, branches whose leaves are green and charming,
And also fruits and flowers,
And beneath me, the roots are hidden.

The roots – are the part of the tree that is in the ground. Its role is to absorb the water and the nutrients from the soil to nourish the tree. In addition, the root attaches the tree to the ground and stabilizes it so it doesn't get uprooted.

The trunk - the central part that holds the body of the tree. The trunk is strong and stable so that it could carry the branches, the leaves and the fruit. The trunk also connects the roots to the branches and the leaves, and through it water and nutrients are transferred from the ground to the leaves.

Branches – The continuation of the trunk that spreads out to different directions. The branches carry the leaves, the flowers and the tree's fruits.





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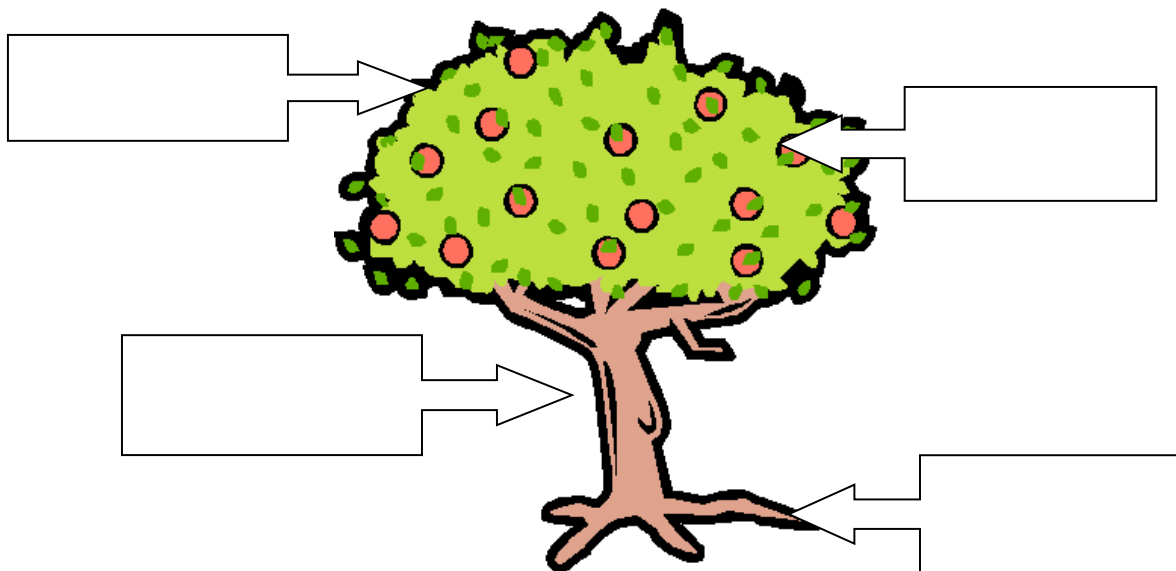
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Leaves – Usually green, and their role is to produce from the air (carbon dioxide) and water, using sunlight, materials that are used to nurture the tree. The tree breathes through the leaves and evaporates some of the water it absorbs. There are trees whose leaves fall in the autumn and in spring they bloom and grow again. These trees, like fig, almond, are called "deciduous". Trees whose leaves remain intact all year round like the carob or olive tree are called "Evergreen".

Buds and flowers - The buds are the small glands that grow on the branches and from which the flowers develop. The flowers are usually colored, and have petals, stamens, and leaves. The role of the flowers is to fertilize the tree and produce seeds that will develop into new trees, that is to reproduce the tree.

Fruits and seeds - The fruit develops from the flowers and they contain the seeds. The fruit is the shell used to nourish the seed from which a new tree develops. The seeds are scattered around the tree or carried to other places. They are absorbed in the soil and with water they germinate and become a new plant.

The Parts of a Tree and their Roles



Place the name of each part in its proper place – by the arrows:

Leaves, roots, trunk, fruit





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Draw a Line between each part of the tree and its role

Parts of a Tree

Leaves

Branches

Roots

Flowers

Fruits

Trunk

Roles

Brings water and nutrients to the leaves

Fertilization of the tree to produce fruit and seed

Stabilization of the tree and holding branches and leaves

Attachment to the ground

Production of wood material from the sun, air and water

A shell to seeds – to create new trees





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Lesson 2 – Legends on Parts of Trees

A story about roots- the love of the arbutus and the pigeon:

Once there was a pigeon who lived in Mount. Carmel. The pigeon was the friend of the arbutus tree that grew in the valley. Every day the pigeon would fly down the Carmel and tell the arbutus about the great landscapes she sees as she flies over the Carmel and on her journeys. Once she took a long flight and had not returned for days and weeks. The arbutus missed the pigeon and was also jealous of her and wished also to see the scenery on his own. He decided to ascend to the peak of the mountain. With a great effort he uprooted himself and started climbing the mountainside. Soon enough he turned red from strain, it's muscles got entangled and its roots got stuck. As the pigeon flew to visit her friend in the valley, she did not find him. She flew and looked for him and suddenly saw him on the mountainside in the middle of the way up, all red.

"What are you doing?" asked the pigeon. "I missed you", answered the arbutus, "and I wished to see by myself everything you tell me about". "You have nothing to worry about", answered the pigeon, "I shall not leave you again".

Ever since the trunk of arbutus is red and it grows on a mountain but only till a certain altitude.

A Story about a Trunk – The Mourning Olive Tree (A Folk Tale)

When King Solomon passed away, all of the animals and plants mourned him. The animals cried and refused to eat. The Trees shed their leaves and did not produce fruits. They spoke with each other about the good heart of King Solomon.

Only the olive tree was quiet and did not shed its leaves.

One day a loud noise was heard. All the trees turned to the direction of the noise, and lo and behold, the trunk of the olive tree was split. So they told each other, the olive tree mourned more than we did on King Solomon. In the depth of its heart it lamented and it suffered until its heart split. Ever since, until this day, the trunk of each ancient olive tree is hollow and split – due to the heart ache of the olive tree over the death of King Solomon.

A Story of Blossoming – The Diligent Almond Tree

Two weeks before Tu Bishvat, the angel of the plants, Tzimhiel, descended to wake up the sleeping trees. Heavy rainfalls pour down, cold winds blow, and all of the trees stand barren. The





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pomegranate sleeps, the apricot sleeps and so does the peach tree. And the almond is asleep while it stands, in the fall it hasn't got even a single leaf left, and it is deep in a slumber. Comes the angel Tzimhiel to the pomegranate, touches it and says: Pomegranate, pomegranate, isn't it about time you get up and open your red flowers in honor of the holiday? So the pomegranate answers sleepily: I'm cold, there's a storm outside and heavy rain is falling, I'll continue to sleep until the month of Iyar.

Comes the angel to the apricot, it felt it and asked: apricot, apricot, perhaps it's about time you get up and open your white flowers in honor of the holiday? The apricot replies sleepily: My leaves have fallen and I am barren, It's raining and I'm extremely cold. I'll leave my flower for the month of Adar.

So the angel Tzimhiel also approaches the peach, who in turn, answers out of sleep: I slept only a bit, and it's hailing outside, I'll sleep just a bit longer, only till spring, then I'll open my flowers.

So the angel goes over to the almond tree, pats it and says: Almond, my almond, all my trees are lazy, they do not wish to get up and do not wish to adorn themselves in honor of the holiday of Tu Bishvat, perhaps you can get up and announce my arrival to the children? So the almond immediately opens its eyes, laughs at the angel and says: "I have slept enough, I shall get up first and in honor of the holiday, I shall adorn myself with flowers and I'll make the children happy.

A Fruit Story – The Fig Planter

A story is told of King Hadrian, who went out for war with his conscripts to conquer a country that had rebelled against him, he encountered an old man planting fig trees. "Hadrian said to him," You are old, working hard and toiling for others".

He said to him: My Lord, king. I am planting. If I have the merit. I will eat my own fruit, and if not, my sons will eat them.

The king spent three years in the war and then returned. He found the old man in the same place. What was the old man doing? He took a basket and filled it with beautiful figs and approached Hadrian.

And said to him: Dear king, accept these from your servant. I am the old man you had encountered on your way to the war and you had said to me: You are old, why are to standing and working for others. Well, G-d had already given me the merit to eat the fruit of my labor. And these, that are in the basket, I grant you as a gift. So Hadrian immediately told his servants: Take it from him and fill it with gold coins, and they did just that.

Therefore, a person should not refrain from planting. Yet just as he found the trees, he should continue planting even if he is old.

Midrash Tanchuma





Types of Trees

1. Fruit Trees and Fruitless / ornamental Trees – Trees whose fruit can be eaten by man, are called fruit trees. Trees whose fruit cannot be eaten by man, are referred to (in Hebrew as) fruitless trees (In Hebrew *Serak*= false, such as, not real) Or ornamental trees (in Hebrew *Noy* = Decoration).
2. Deciduous Trees and Evergreen Trees – Trees who drop their leaves in Autumn, just before the winter, who grow new leaves in spring, are called deciduous trees. Trees whose leaves do not fall all at once in a single season, and remain green all year long, are called evergreen trees.
3. Trees and bushes – Trees are tall, have wide trunks, their leaves are located at a certain height and are far from the ground. Trees look narrow and have wider branches. Bushes are low, their trunks are thin, their branches spread out at a low point on the trunk and they are close to the ground. Bushes look wide and their branches are dense.

Sort the following plants in the chart according to types

Fruit Trees	Fruitless/Ornamental Trees

Orange, pine, cedar, carob, pomegranate, blue Jacaranda, olive, chinaberry, oak, pistacia, vine, jasmine, birch, cypress, pear, banana, ficus.

Deciduous	Evergreen

Lemon, pine, cedar, carob, pomegranate, almond, olive, vine, cypress, pear, date palm, avocado, apple, plum, eucalyptus, fig.





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Bushes	Trees

Grapefruit, date palm, viburnum, cedar, oak, mastic tree, cypress, jasmine, fig, bougainvillea, myrtle, eucalyptus, pine.





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Lesson 3 – A Tree Poem and a Tree Story

How is it to be a Tree/ Datia Ben - Dor

I once asked a tree:
Tree, how is it to be a tree:
You are probably joking –
said the tree.
No, no I said.
I'm absolutely serious.
Is it good or bad?
Bad?! – wondered the tree – why?
Doesn't it bother you to be stuck in one place all week?
I'm not stuck.
I am actually planted.
And don't you sometimes feel like
Going to visit friends,
Or to see what goes on
in other places

I have no need to move around,
birds sing to me constantly,
butterflies kiss me,
The wind embraces,
and before my eyes the entire horizon opens.
And at night when all are asleep, so what?
At night I listen to the silence
And hear
how the earth breathes,
how fruit ripen,
how dew descends.
And in my branches - nestlings rest,
And I keep them asleep.
I love you, tree – I said,
And I went to my garden
And planted a tree across my window.

The Pine Tree that was not Happy with his Lot/ Bela Baram

Adapted and illustrated by Leah S. According to The Tu Bishvat Anthology of the Inter-Kibbutz Kindergarten Division

In the Galilee mountains a forest grows. And it has many trees as well as bushes, birds that are hop and chirp gladly. In this forest lived the Minister of Forests. He is walking and listening to the sounds. One evening, he went out for a stroll.



And Lo, at the end of the forest stands a pine sapling, weeping. The Forest Minister asked him "Why do you weep, dear pine?"

"You have given to all the trees soft, fresh leaves and only to me - pine needles, I would like to have glossy and shiny leaves of gold, and I shall be most beautiful of all the trees".

The Forest Minister smiled to himself and said: "Okay, tomorrow morning your leaves will turn golden." So he said and walked off...

The small pine tree fell asleep. In the morning he woke up to find his leaves...all golden.

How beautiful is the pine tree, said the rest of the trees, there is no one more beautiful than him...

While he was glad about his new look, a man carrying a sack on his back came by.

"Wow, golden leaves, how pretty and shiny are they", he said. He came close to the tree and picked off all the leaves, and went happily on his way and left the small pine tree behind, sobbing...

Hearing this, the Forest Minister approached the pine tree and asked: "Why do you cry dear pine?" I do not want to have golden leaves. Give me transparent, glistening, shiny leaves of glass and I will be the most beautiful of all the trees".

The Forest Minister smiled to himself, and said: "Okay, by the morning you'll have glass leaves."

And this came to be. The small pine fell asleep and, in the morning, he found himself with leaves made of glass.

How beautiful is the pine, there is none more attractive than him, said all the trees.

While he was merrily rejoicing, a mischievous wind wreaked havoc among the trees, causing all of the glass leaves to fall to the ground and break. The wind calmed down, and the small pine tree remained barren and bald and broke out in sobs.

The Minister of the Forest arrived to see the pine tree and asked him: "Why do you weep, dear pine?"

"I do not want glass transparent leaves, give me soft green leaves just like the other trees have."

The Minister of the Forest smiled to himself and said: "Okay, tomorrow morning, you will be dressed in a green garment."

And so it was. The small pine tree fell asleep and when he rose in the morning, he noticed that he was covered with a fresh green garment.

And all the trees in the Galilee Mountains whispered among themselves, "how beautiful the pine tree is... and while he was proud and happy, suddenly..."

Who comes along in a prance? A reckless goat, climbing quickly on the pine:

-what green leaves, how tasty, how soft and sweet...

And so, the reckless goat consumed all of the leaves and returned satisfied and joyful. Yet the pine was left behind sobbing.

The Forest Minister heard his wails and went to see him asking: What happened dear pine? Why do you cry?"



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Replied the pine: " I do not wish to have soft fresh leaves, I want my prickly needle leaves back. I'll grow and then no one will harm me."

And evening fell and turned into night, and the small pine tree fell asleep. In the morning he awoke to find his leaves, long and needle shaped, there were hundreds and thousands of them, and the small jubilant pine tree was happy with his lot till this very day.

Suggestions for Activities for the Poems and the Stories

1. Mark words connected to the holiday or to trees in the text.
2. Complete missing words.
3. Divide the texts into parts, by pictures, draw the text contents.
4. Act out the poem/story.

